

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171055

FOR AMBASSADOR BLAKE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO BEIRUT, CAIRO, LONDON, PARIS,
SEOUL, TEL AVIV, USUN, GENEVA, JUNE 16, FROM MOSCOW RPTD
TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8369

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET-U.S. DISCUSSIONS OF UN MATTERS

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM BUFFUM, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF,
HELD FOUR HOURS OF TALKS WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART, VIKTOR
ISRAELYAN, CHIEF OF THE MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION,
AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF ON JUNE 13. THE TALKS COVERED THE
GAMUT OF CURRENT UN QUESTIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE MIDDLE EAST. AMBASSADOR BUFFUM STRESSED AT THE OUTSET
THAT ANY MOVE TO OUST OR LIMIT ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE UN
WOULD HAVE HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE UN AND WOULD COMPLICATE
EFFORTS TOWARD SOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THE SOVIETS,
STRESSING THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN APPROACHED FIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY
ABOUT SUCH A MOVE, SAID THAT PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT WOULD
REMOVE THE ISSUE. THEY IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD NOT
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OPPOSE AN ANTI-ISRAEL MOVE IF ADEQUATE PROGRESS IS LACKING.

B. DISARMAMENT. THE SOVIETS INDICATED THAT THEY CONSIDER THE UN'S CENTRAL PURPOSE TO BE THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, NOT WORLD PROBLEMS IN GENERAL. THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD NO SPECIFIC PLANS FOR A NEW INITIATIVE ON ARMS LIMITATION, BUT HINTED THAT THEY MAY SEEK AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF CSCE AND PERHAPS OF DETENTE IN GENERAL. THE SOVIETS INSISTED THAT THEIR ENMOD PROPOSAL LAST YEAR SHOULD NOT HAVE CAUGHT THE U.S. BY SURPRISE.

C. CHARTER REFORM. THE SOVIETS ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST CHARTER REFORM UNDER ANY GUISE AND URGED STRONGER U.S. OPPOSITION AS WELL. AMBASSADOR BUFFUM AGREED WITH THE SOVIET OBJECTIVE BUT SAID THAT WE MAY DIFFER ON THE MOST EFFECTIVE TACTICS. THE SOVIETS SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED WHEN AMBASSADOR BUFFUM, REFERRING TO THE RECENT BYELORUSSIAN ALLEGATION OF VETO ABUSE, POINTED OUT THAT SUCH STATEMENTS WERE NOT HELPFUL AND TENDED TO UNDERMINE THE SOVIET POSITION.

D. PEACEKEEPING. ISRAELYAN STRESSED MOSCOW'S CONVICTION THAT THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MUST BE ABLE TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER ANY PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN ORDER TO PREVENT ABUSES BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OR THE FORCE COMMANDER, AND TO ALLOW FOR CHANGES IN A PERMANENT MEMBER'S POLICY OR ATTITUDE ABOUT THE OPERATION. AMBASSADOR BUFFUM REPLIED THAT SUCH RESTRAINTS WOULD HAMPER BOTH THE UNSYG AND THE FORCE COMMANDER AND WOULD ALLOW FOR INTERFERENCE IN AN OPERATION FOR FICKLE REASONS. THE RESULTING UNCERTAINTY WOULD ALSO INHIBIT COUNTRIES FROM CONTRIBUTING TROOPS AND FUNDS.

E. KOREA. AMBASSADOR BUFSUM RESTATED FIRM U.S. OPPOSITION TO ANY ATTEMPT TO DISSOLVE THE UN COMMAND IN KOREA WITHOUT ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GUARANTEEING THE ARMISTICE. THE SOVIETS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT THEIR NORTH KOREAN ALLY, BUT THEY DID NOT SHOW MUCH ENTHUSIASM. THE SOVIETS HINTED THAT THEY WOULD FAVOR UN MEMBERSHIP FOR BOTH PARTS OF KOREA BUT THAT MEMBERSHIP COULD NOT BE "FORCED" ON NORTH KOREA.

F. BUDGET QUESTIONS. THE SOVIETS URGED STRONGLY CONCERTED ACTION AGAINST SWELLING UN BUDGETS, AND SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT

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CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BUDGET SPECIALISTS OF BOTH MISSIONS IN NEW YORK. AMBASSADOR BUFFUM AGREED THAT THE UN BUDGETS WERE NOT ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED AND AGREED THAT BILATERAL MEETINGS IN NEW YORK DEVOTED TO MAKING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO SURPRISES IN THE SOVIET POSITIONS, THE DISCUSSIONS WERE USEFUL AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT. IN SEVERAL INFORMAL ASIDES, ISRAELYAN AND BUFFUM RECALLED MAJOR EVENTS AND

PERSONALITIES IN THE 30-YEAR HISTORY OF THE UN. DETAILS FOLLOW
BY AIRGRAM.

3. AMBASSADOR BUFFUM LEFT MOSCOW BEFORE THIS MESSAGE COULD
BE CLEARED WITH HIM IN FINAL FORM. MATLOCK UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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